

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 213607

64

ORIGIN EB-11

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA PRIORITY

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

INFO AMCONSUL MELBOURNE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, AS

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: USER CHARGES TALKS

REF: MELBOURNE 1138

MONTREAL FOR USDEL, ICAO

1. AS EMBASSY AWARE WE HAVE IN LOW KEY BEEN PRESSING GOA
THROUGH CONGEN MELBOURNE TO SCHEDULE EARLY DISCUSSIONS ON
AIRPORT USER CHARGES. SINCE THESE EFFORTS HAVE NOT PROVEN
SUCCESSFUL WE BELIEVE IT IS NOW NECESSARY TO RAISE THE
ISSUE ON A MORE FORMAL BASIS. US CONCERN OVER GREAT
DISPARITY BETWEEN CHARGES PREVAILING IN AUSTRALIA AND IN
US HAS NOW BEEN EMPHASIZED BY THE CABINET LEVEL WHITE
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PAGE 02 STATE 213607

HOUSE COMMITTEE STUDYING STEPS TO BE TAKEN ON BEHALF OF

OUR INTERNATIONAL AIR LINES, AND IT IS MOST IMPORTANT THAT WE DEAL WITH SUBJECT WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY. EMBASSY IS ACCORDINGLY REQUESTED TO EMPHASIZE AS APPROPRIATE TO TRANSPORT MINISTER JONES AND OTHERS THE IMPORTANCE WE ATTACH TO AN EARLY MEETING ON THIS MATTER. PRESENCE OF PHILLIPS AND HOLT AT ICAO ASSEMBLY IN MONTREAL WOULD WEEM TO PROVIDE WELCOME OPPORTUNITY TO HOLD MEETING IN WASHINGTON AFTER ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES.

2. DEPARTMENT DELIVERING NOTE ALONG FOLLOWING LINES TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY SEPTEMBER 27.

...AND HAS THE HONOR TO REFER TO DISCUSSIONS HELD IN MELBOURNE IN FEBRUARY 1974 BETWEEN DELEGATIONS REPRESENTING THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE US AND AUSTRALIA REGARDING A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE QUESTION OF UNITED STATES AND AUSTRALIAN CHARGES FOR THE USE OF AIRPORTS AND AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES. AT THAT TIME A DRAFT INTERROGATORY WAS INTRODUCED BY THE UNITED STATES FOR STUDY AND REFINEMENT BY THE GOVERNMENT OF AUSTRALIA.

SUBSEQUENTLY, MR. R. D. PHILLIPS, DEPUTY SECRETARY, AIR TRANSPORT GROUP, ON JULY 25, 1974, PRESENTED A REVISED TEXT OF THE INTERROGATORY THROUGH THE UNITED STATES CONSULATE GENERAL IN MELBOURNE. UNITED STATES ACCEPTANCE OF THIS REVISED TEXT WAS CONVEYED TO MR. PHILLIPS TOGETHER WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT AUGUST 26, MIGHT BE A SUITABLE DATE FOR A MEETING TO DISCUSS THE AGREED REVISIONS. IN REPLY THERE WAS INFORMAL INDICATION THAT THIS DATE WAS NOT SATISFACTORY TO THE AUSTRALIAN AUTHORITIES, HOWEVER, THERE WERE SUGGESTIONS THAT FURTHER DISCUSSION OF THE SUBJECT MIGHT BE ARRANGED IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE AUSTRALIAN PARTICIPATION IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE INTERNATIONAL CIVIL AVIATION ORGANIZATION (ICAO) IN MONTREAL BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 24, 1974.

THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES BELIEVES THAT THE SUBJECT OF CHARGES FOR THE USE OF AIRPORTS AND AIR NAVIGATION FACILITIES IS ONE WHICH HAS A SUBSTANTIAL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 213607

IMPACT ON THE OPERATIONS OF OUR RESPECTIVE AIRLINES UNDER THE PROVISIONS OF THE US-AUSTRALIA AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT. ACCORDINGLY, CONSISTENT WITH ARTICLE VIII OF THE AGREEMENT, IT HAS THE HONOR TO REQUEST CONSULTATIONS ON THIS SUBJECT PURSUANT TO ARTICLE XI THEREOF. GIVEN THE AVAILABILITY OF AUSTRALIAN AVIATION OFFICIALS IN MONTREAL FOR THE ICAO ASSEMBLY IT IS PROPOSED THAT THESE CONSULTATIONS BE CONVENED IN WASHINGTON ON OR

ABOUT OCTOBER 17, 1974. IT IS ALSO PROPOSED THAT THE
DRAFT INTERROGATORY AS REVISED BY THE AUSTRALIAN
AUTHORITIES BE USED AS THE BASIS FOR THESE DISCUSSIONS.

COMPLIMENTARY CLOSE.

3. FOR WALDMANN, CHAIRMAN USDEL ICAO. HOPE YOU WILL BE
ABLE TO PIN DOWN PHILLIPS, HOLT AND OTHERS ON AUSTRALIAN
DELEGATION AS APPROPRIATE TO AGREE TO BEGIN
DISCUSSION ON AIRPORT USER CHARGES IN WASHINGTON WHEN
ASSEMBLY CONCLUDES. NOTE TO AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY IS
DESIGNED EMPHASIZE OUR INTEREST THIS MATTER AND REINFORCE
OUR INTENT TO GET ON WITH SUBJECT. KISSINGER

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